



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Contact:

Phil Pitchford
(951) 826-5975
riversideca.gov

“Riverside Tour Guide” Brings Local Heritage to Life on Mobile Devices

Mobile application tells the story behind each of six historic statues on Main Street Mall

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – A new mobile application now available in the Apple Apps Store uses innovative technology to bring to life Riverside’s heritage for anyone with an Apple smartphone or a tablet.

The “Riverside Tour Guide” uses advanced “geofencing” technology to push photos, audio and text to any device equipped with the free app. Residents, visitors and students alike can take a self-guided tour of city landmarks just by walking within close range of each site.

The new mobile app was created by the City of Riverside’s Innovation and Technology Department, with assistance from the Mayor’s Office and a variety of other talent within the City. The app was unveiled recently at Mayor Rusty Bailey’s State of the City address.

“I was thrilled to break the news about such an innovative approach to telling the Riverside story,” Mayor Bailey said. “This mix of heritage and technology connects our past to our future.”

The initial content tells the story of the six statues on the Main Street pedestrian mall downtown that constitute the Peace Walk from City Hall north toward the Riverside Convention Center.

Those statues are tributes to: Staff Sgt. Ysmael “Smiley” Villegas, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Cesar Chavez, Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, Mahatma Gandhi and Eliza Tibbets.

To access the content, simply download the app and click “Begin Tour” near one of the statues. If you are unable to walk the tour, you can view the application’s statue list to experience a virtual tour of these beautiful monuments.

“This mobile app is a good example of how a local government can use technology to make important information – in this case, history – available to anyone at any time of the day or night,” said Lea Deesing, Riverside’s Chief Innovation Officer. “Our Innovation and Technology Department is looking forward to expanding the application to include additional historical sites around Riverside.”

The mobile app runs in English or Spanish. To run it in Spanish, once application is launched, click the “Settings” button and choose Spanish under the language option.

Aviso: Esta aplicación puede ser utilizada en inglés o español. Para usarla en español, en cuanto empiece la aplicación oprima el botón de “funciones” y escoja español bajo la opción de idioma.

The app is best downloaded when the smart device is connected to a Wi-Fi hotspot. The device must run Apple’s iOS 7, have about 100 MB of free disk space to install the app and have 3G, 4G or a Wi-Fi connection. You must press “OK” when prompted for geo-location permission within the app.

The application is available on iPads and iPhones. Android compatibility is pending.